

134: FROM WHISPERS TO SCREAMS



SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING

DEAD

TM

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Previously:

While inspecting the Hilltop's northern border, Jesus learns that one of his patrol hasn't been heard from since morning. Venturing out, Jesus takes a group to search for the missing man, only to be savagely attacked by the Whisperers.

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YOU SPEAK...
AND BROKEN
LEGS HURT
YOU...

WHAT
ARE
YOU?

WE ARE
WHISPERERS...

YOU JUST
KILLED MY
FRIEND.

I'M NOT
GOING DOWN
WITHOUT
TAKING MOST
OF YOU WITH
ME.







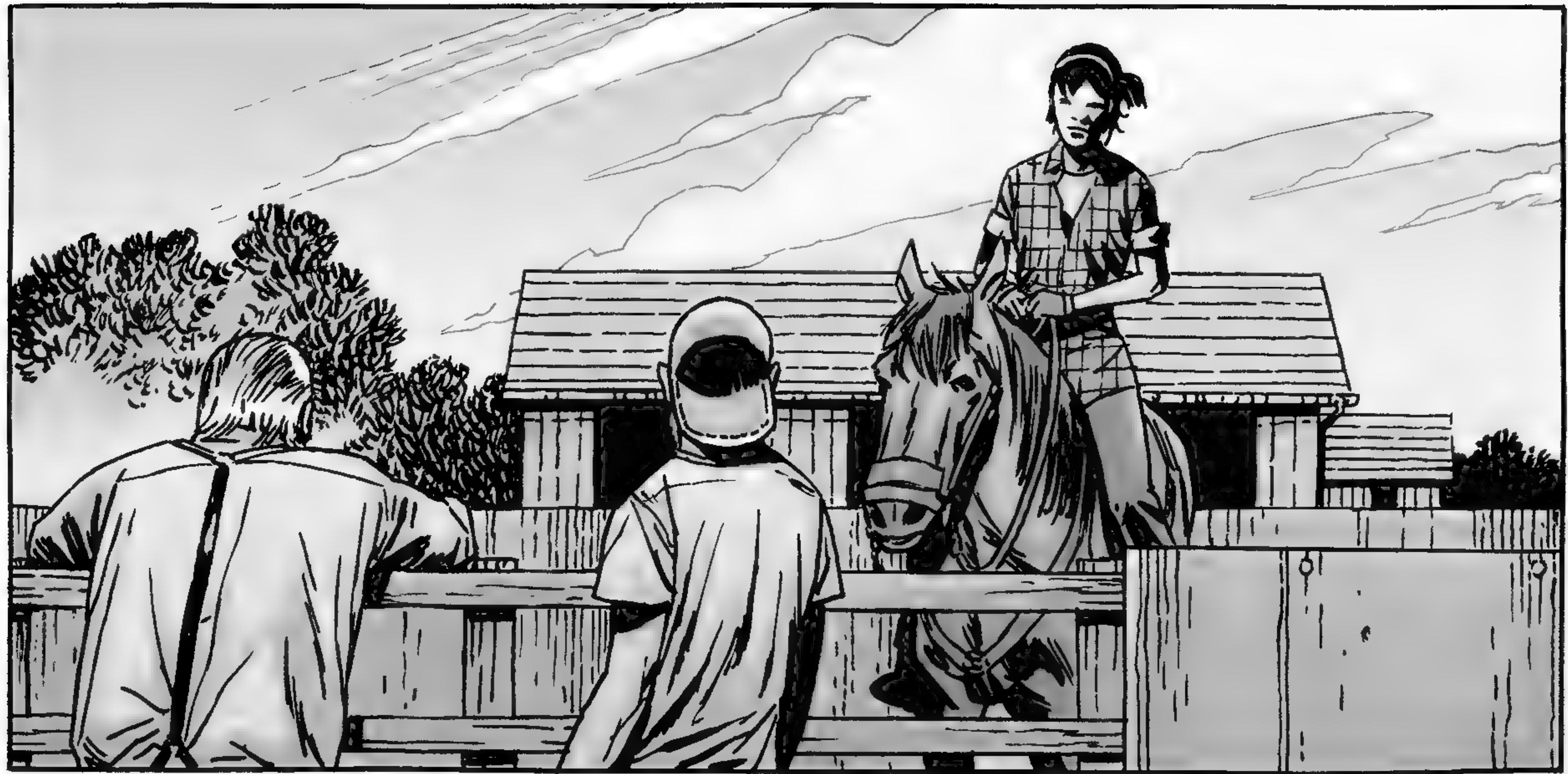


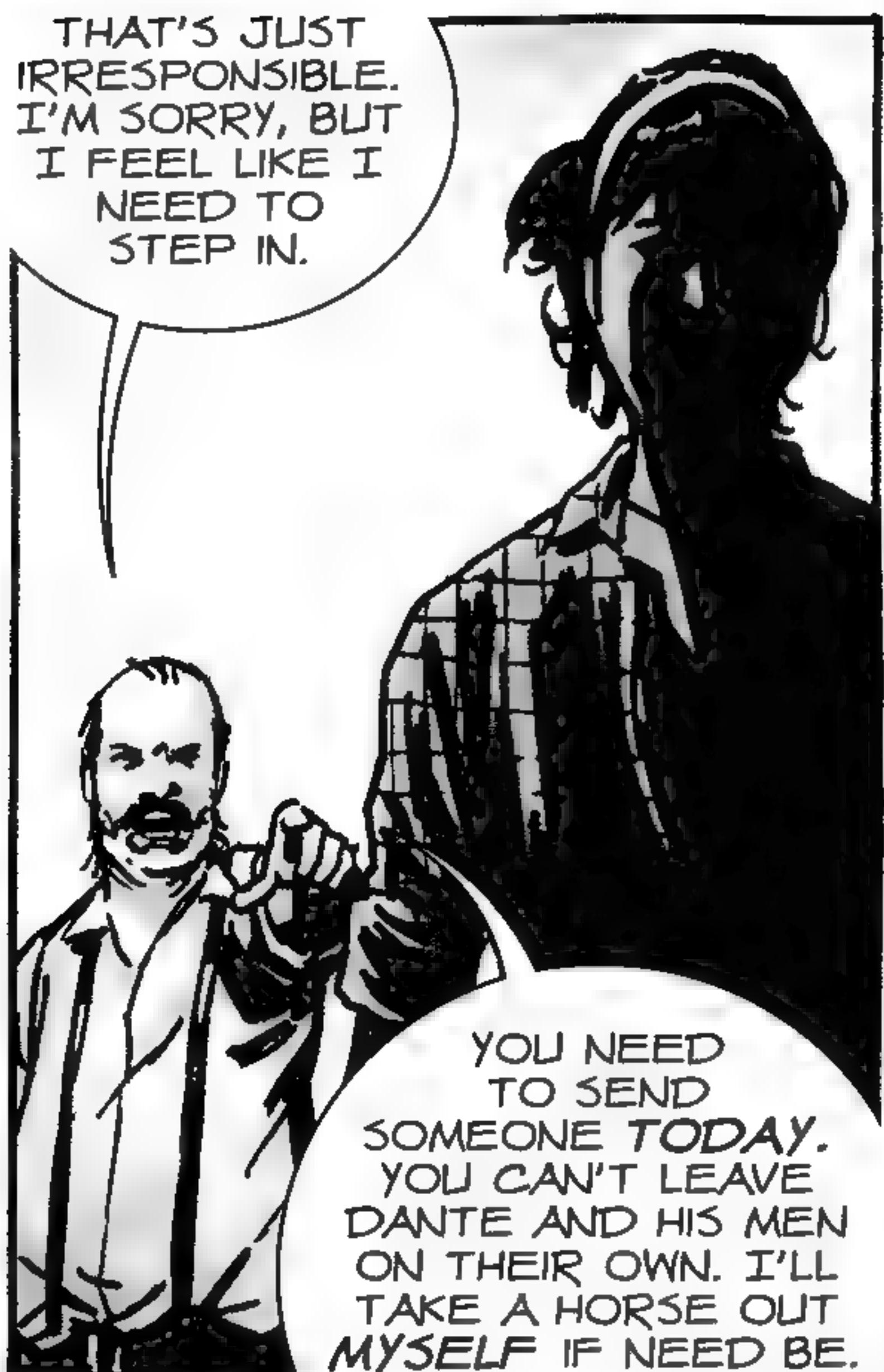


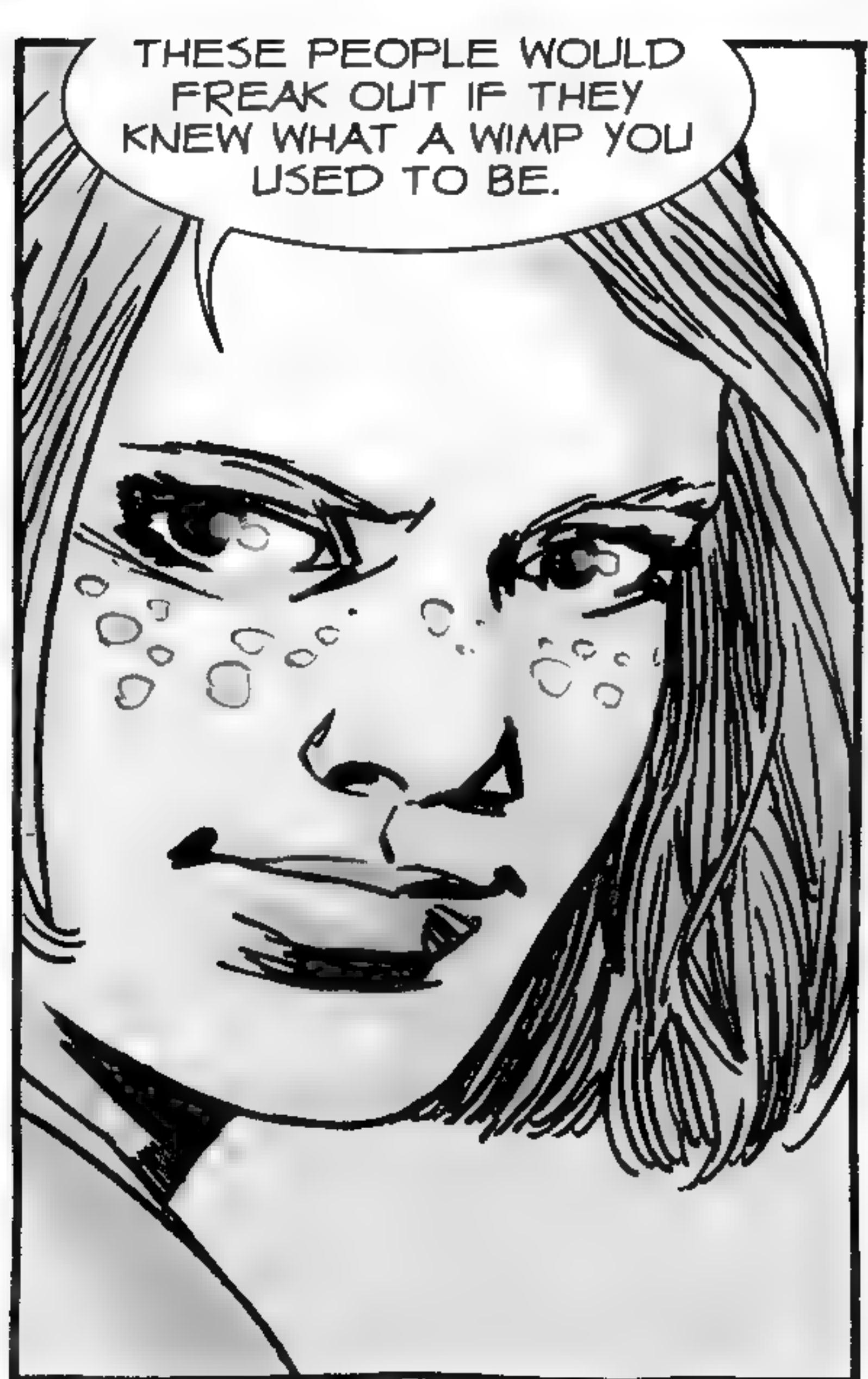
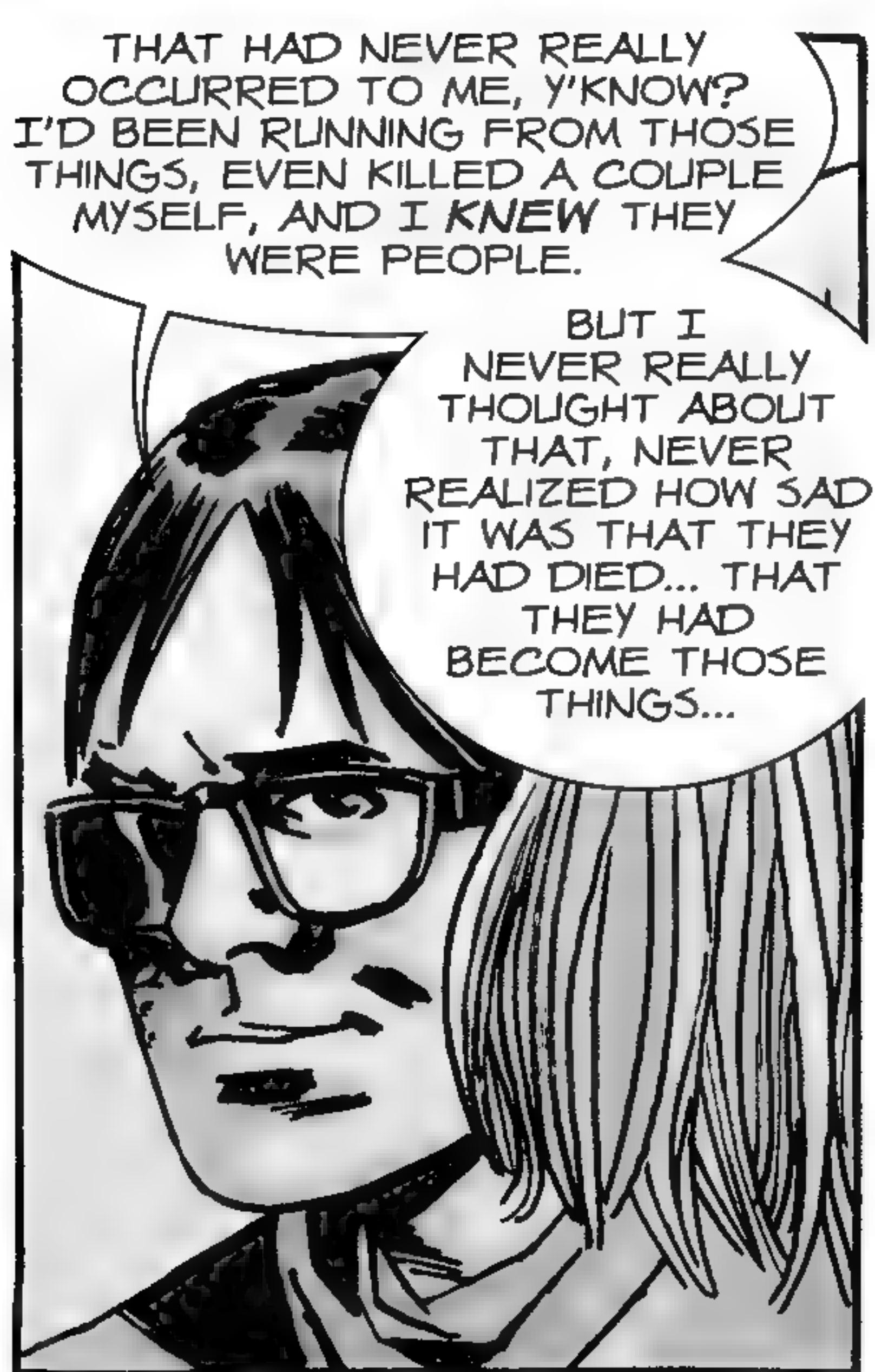






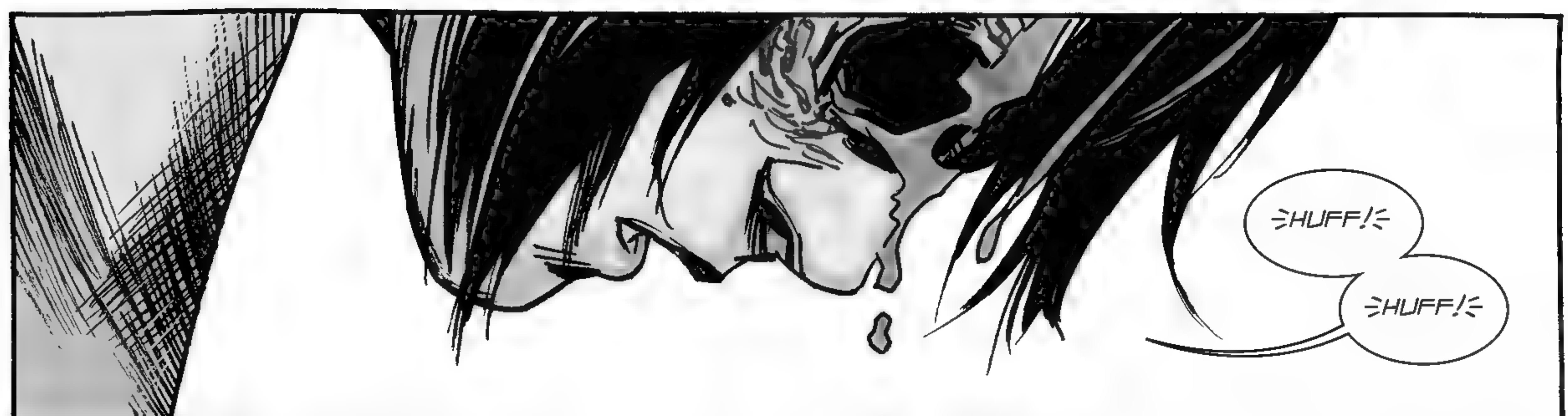


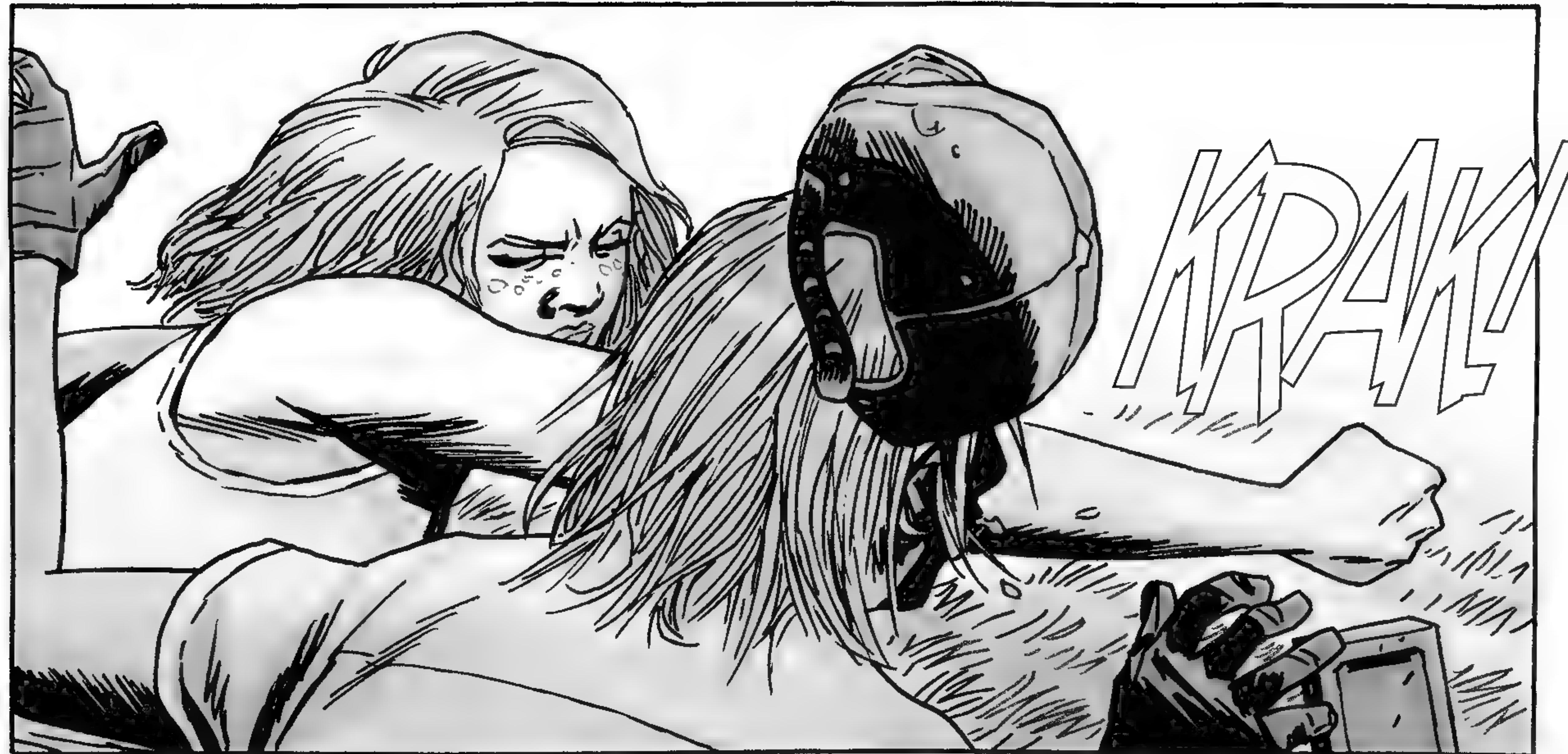






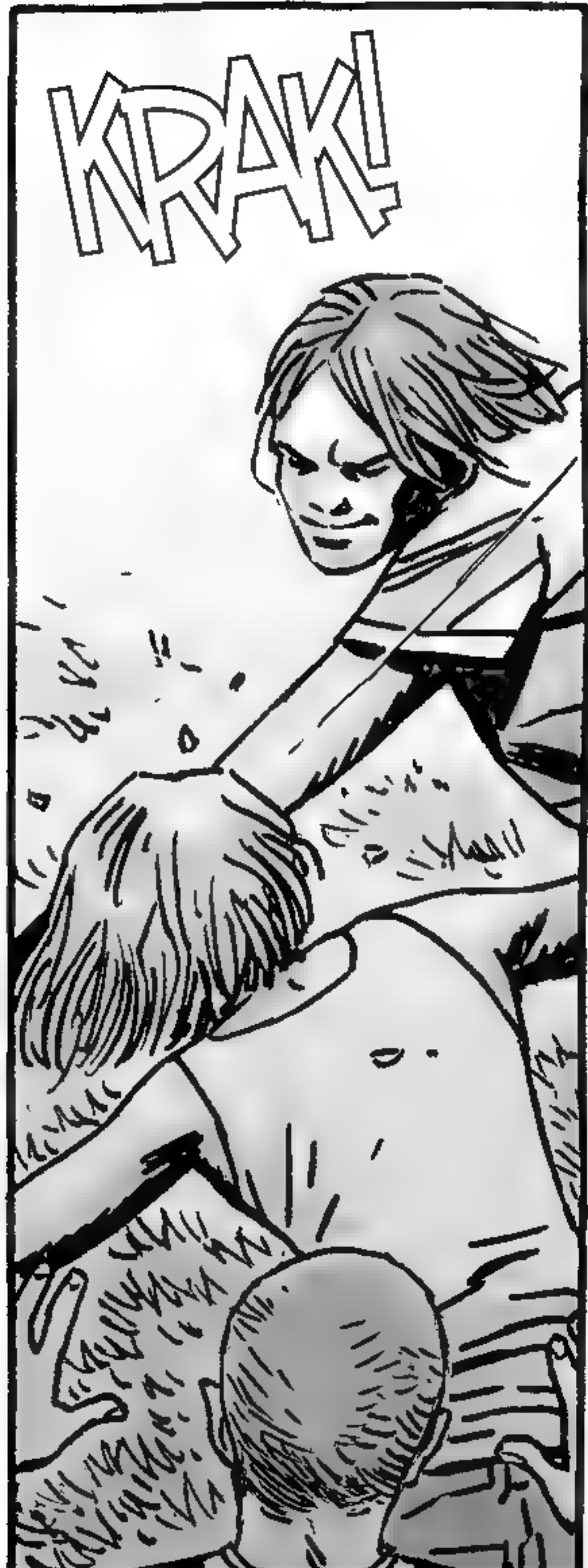
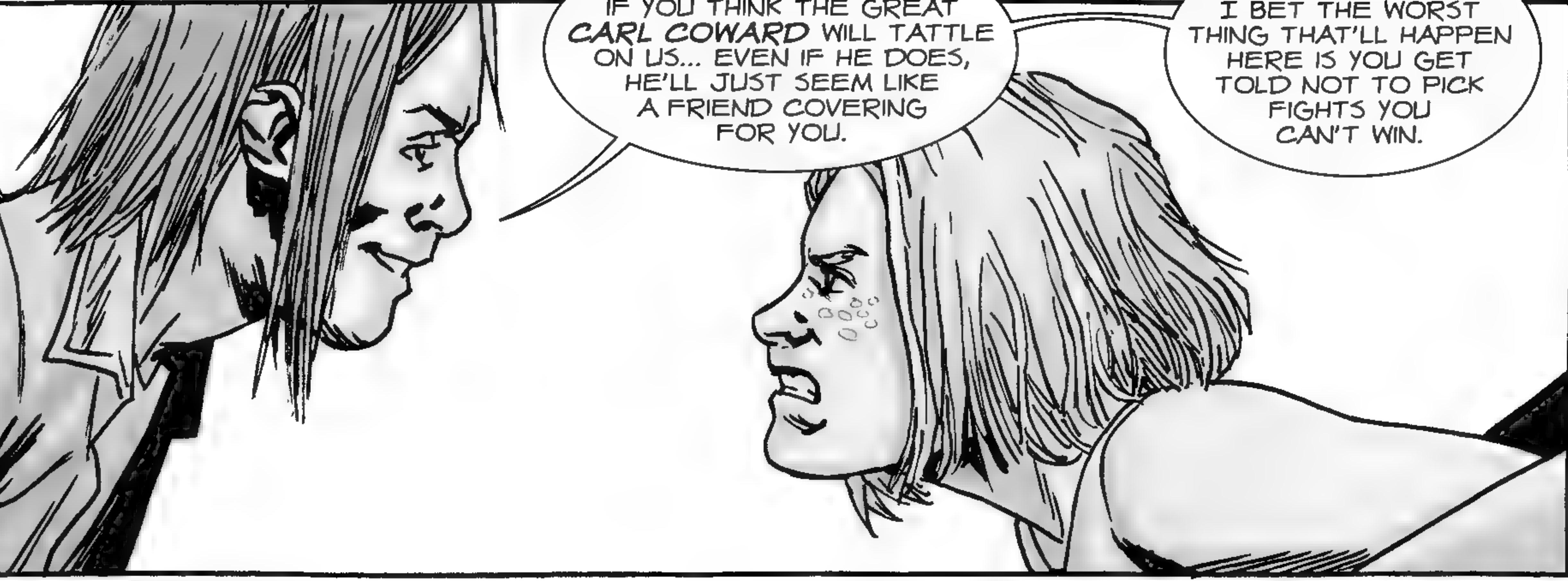
CARL!



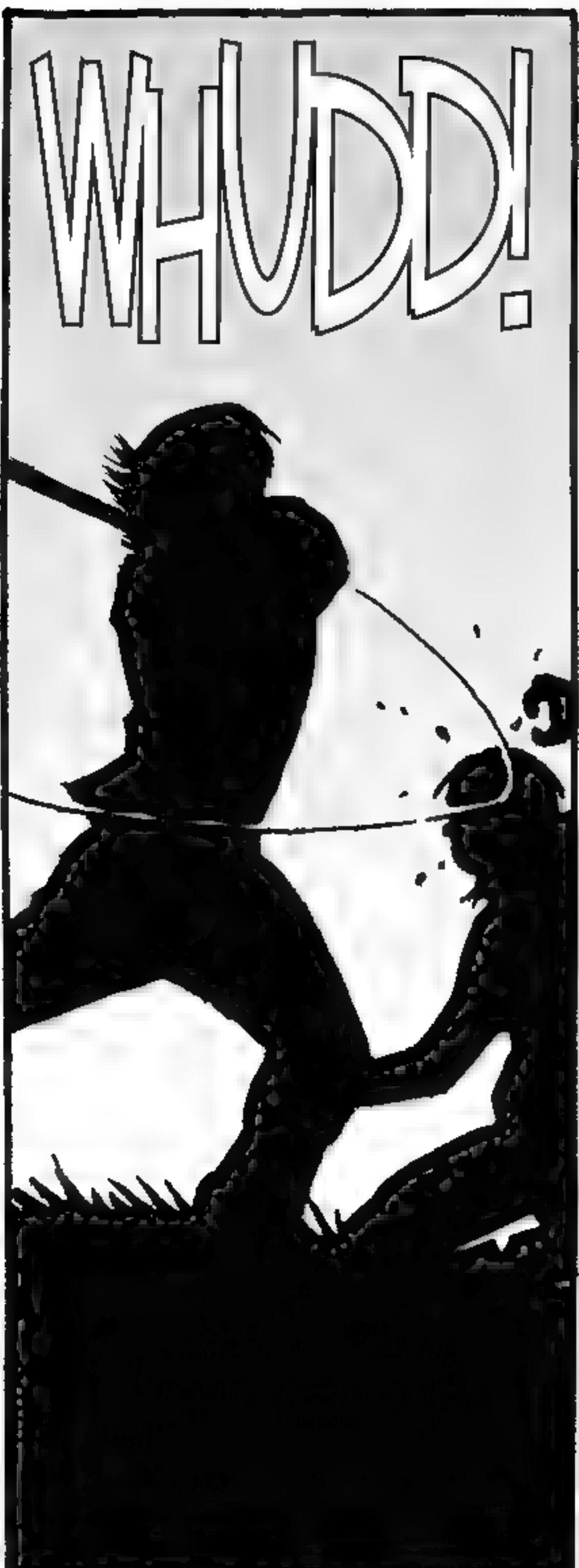


IF YOU THINK THE GREAT
CARL COWARD WILL TATTLE
ON US... EVEN IF HE DOES,
HE'LL JUST SEEM LIKE
A FRIEND COVERING
FOR YOU.

I BET THE WORST
THING THAT'LL HAPPEN
HERE IS YOU GET
TOLD NOT TO PICK
FIGHTS YOU
CAN'T WIN.













LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

So this Carl shit flat-out upset me. It was tough to balloon and I'd rather not talk to Robert for the rest of the week, if possible. (I have caller ID, so it's definitely possible.)

Sorry... you're not going to be so happy with me after next issue either.

Dear, don't mind me whispering, kirkncrew,

Just got done devouring issue 132 and all i can say is Wow!! Best issue by far for a while. Where to begin?

1. Andrea. Please dont cut off any more pieces of her, shes lost enough. Magna doesnt seem stupid, but who knows with this wildcard.

Have any pieces been cut off of her? Is that a thing that is done to Andrea? She'll be FINE. I swear. ABSOLUTELY fine.

She's definitely missing part of her ear. That counts.

2. Sophia. Glad to see she bullied away her craziness.

...poor Carl...

3. I know people are complaining about the new character design, Rick looks fine, but when Carl puts back on the hat, those glasses gotta go.

LAY OFF, CARL! Who are you, Czar of Post-Apocalyptic Fashion?

4. Again, I know you are all probably way sick of the 52 week a year issue

Yeah, totally are. Thanks for writing!

Daniel Mark Rivera
Middletown N.Y

Sean! Did you totally delete part of question 4?! SHAME on you!

Y'know... just because you did that... we ARE doing 52 issues in 2015. It's settled. Sorry, Charlie... it just HAS to be done.

Dear Team TWD,

"The Walking Dead" is phenomenal and the new storyline about the "whisperers" is sensational — really different, morbid, terrifying and fascinating. I love it.

The only slight disappointment I've had is what was skipped in the time jump. I waited a full arc to see if it brought me around but I still have one nagging disappointment about what wasn't shown, especially in terms of paying off the arcs of the secondary characters.

You haven't missed much, and I promise having all the changes unfold in backstory is more interesting. It was a number of years of relative peace. It would have been 40 issues OR MORE (remember, the book doesn't exactly move in real time) of birthday cakes and planting trees. People would have left the book in droves. AND if I'd added action or drama or life threatening stakes... it would have made Rick's plan wrong... he ended the war and brought peace to the land... had to pay that off. You'll find out what

happened to Michonne eventually.

So much character material was deprived a pay-off... Eugene/Rosita has been bubbling away for years and I was sad that we didn't see their relationship begin. The Carsons are fascinating and played a fairly significant part in AOW — I hoped we'd find out more or at least see their reunion. Even more so — Dwight! How he interacts with the Saviors, let alone Sherry, was something I'd been dying to see. And Negan's backstory: I could read Negan scenes all day and now Carl must now know a lot more about him than we do which is a little frustrating as until now we'd seen so much from his POV. Meanwhile, Rick/Andrea relationship has deepened hugely (but she still doesn't know how Ben died), Herschel was born, Sophia has changed almost completely: these aren't high points of drama but I thought the series had earned the chance to show these major pay-offs in the character's lives and relationships.

While I wouldn't call most of these major payoffs, there's always going to be some missed opportunities with a time jump of an indeterminate period. But the hope is that where the story picks up will be infinitely more interesting than anything you missed. As for Negan's backstory... well, there are still plans for that.

Plus, the aftermath of a war left so many logistical issues: many wounded but medicine centralised in the Sanctuary which seemed to have an addiction problem; food running low; the need for some kind of political leadership and criminal justice system to be established; and the beginning of coordinated anti-walker strategies. Plus, we still know quite little about the Kingdom, Jesus and others.

I can see the case for speeding the timeline up and I'm not against a time skip in principle — an arc about crop-rotation doesn't wow me and I can see that you don't want the series to feel backward-looking — but I feel like there must have been at least 6 issues' worth of character-rich, politically-complex, danger-filled action before the jump — a "Here We Remain" or "We Find Ourselves" equivalent to follow "All Out War".

When you do this kind of thing... you want it to have the most impact. You'll get a sense of how all these things went down over time. I promise. And to be honest, your frustration is kind of the point... you SHOULD be wondering about all these things.

All this said, the series is still genius, the art is unbelievable and #130 was my favourite issue since #113 — floored me! The pay-off in #132 was just as good. I just hope that alongside the new awesomeness, the longer-running plot threads aren't abandoned.

Definitely not!

Keep up the magnificent work,

Edward Reynolds

PS. Any news on Super Dinosaur #23?

I got 22 pages of fully colored art on my computer. So, soon.

Sending it off to the printer this week!

Kirkman and Co,

Just finished my second read through of issue 132 and I am loving the hell out of this arc. I love the slow burn of you teasing us about Michonne in particular, but making us wait and wonder what's become of her. Keep it up... As long as we eventually do get to see her and the reason for her absence is epic.

Oh, Michonne? She's just been chilling. Everything's cool with her situation. She's FINE. ABSOLUTELY fine.

Heh.

I'm also so intrigued by Magna. Is she good, is she bad? What exactly are her motives? I just don't know. One thing there was never any doubt about for me was that she is another strong, decisive, intelligent character. I kind of want her to have nefarious motives though, because I do love a good villainess. Either way, bravo man!

I love the artwork on the "Walkie Talkies!" Were Leatherface and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre a point of inspiration at all for how this was drawn or for your storyline? As soon as I saw that first close up of the "Walkie Talkie" that Dante killed I couldn't help but think of Leatherface and Ed Gein. When the big fucker comes up behind him in the last panel I had visions of Dante being chased through a field by a chainsaw wielding fiend!

You're the second person to bring up walkie talkies, but the other dude thought the walkers had walkie talkies strapped to them or something, which would've been friggin' bizarre.

I love it all guys! Keep it up and thank you so much. I spend a lot of my time with my head in the TWD universe and I love every minute.

Free Negan!
Carly Hudson
Houston, TX

Well, while I wouldn't say Leatherface was a direct inspiration in the idea itself (it was really just an evolution of Michonne's tactics with the zombie pets), the word "leatherface" was definitely used in describing things to Charlie on how I wanted these people to look.

There's just only so many people who wear people's faces, you know?

Dear Letter Hacks Team,

I love how this comic raises the issues of morality when the world has gone to hell and how Rick has changed morally over time from brutally killing the Hunters for threatening them through to giving Negan a life sentence for his crimes.

However I am interested in the morality behind diverting a herd.

This tactic threw the herd directly at Magna and co. Yes, Jesus brought them to safety to Alexandria but not before Bernie was killed. What if they were all killed?

Did Rick or Eugene ever think about this happening and if so are deaths, like Bernie's, just the cost of protecting his people?

Kind regards,

Jason
Kwinana, Western Australia

Regardless of how many people are alive out there... there's a good chance that there are far more people being saved by diverting a herd away from their network of communities, than people endangered on the other end. It's something they wrestle with... but there's just not a viable alternative.

We'll see them discussing these things at some point.

Okay, to start off, all I'd like to say is I LOVE Rick's new look!! The beard and bald is sweet. He looks like a wise badass lumberjack.

Secondly, I really dug the twist with the whispering roamer talkers. I was worried you were going to make up some bogus poop about them developing "skills". Then I saw the stitches and wondered if there was some strange scientist

making a army of weaponized rotting flesh. But I love this!

Finally, I love the five step tactic!! It's awesome seeing how everything has developed over an undeclared amount of time. I know it's a "slower" part of the story, but I've loved it so much.

I'd also argue that springing that tactic on you out of nowhere in that issue was much more effective than watching them develop it over time... seeing them learn it and train other people... boring.

So excited to see Carl begin a new season and to see the Leather Face Gang's intentions.

We're not going to call them "The Leather Face Gang." Okay?

Thank you for writing this awesomeness!!! Been following since issue 20 and I'm absolutely still a big fan. And in my travels I've shared this awesome story with people from Norway to Israel! Thank you!

Much love and appreciation!

Dylan Williams,
Oban, Scotland

I've never asked you, Robert, but what was the inspiration behind the five step thing? You do a lot of research on military formations and whatnot?

It just... seemed like... a logical way... to kill slow moving groups of zombies that have surrounded you? I don't know... it probably came from that one level on Police Trainer with the baseball bat guys approaching you?

I'm pretty good at that level. All of them, actually.

Good day sirs,

I finally wrote my first Letter Hack last week and now that I've popped the top, it seems I cannot stop.

Oh... Hey! You're that person from up there! Cool.

While having a lively conversation with my Walking Dead Support Group (heeeeey, yoooouuuuuuys!) we got into an interesting debate that I am hoping you can clear up, please.

There's a Walking Dead Support Group?!

Our conversation started with, "What would you do if you got bit?" My answer was that I would find someone to have sex with immediately so that I could go out with a BANG. The question that arose from my answer, the question that I am now posing to you is: Since I was bit would I infect my partner with the equivalent of a Walker STD? Would my partner turn with me because we swapped fluids? Please enlighten us so we can make educated decisions should we get bit in the TWD universe.

Thank you for being the cause of such debates.

Love forever,
Carly Hudson
Houston, TX

Some things are better left unanswered.

If you had a septic wound that was infecting your blood stream, would you pass that infection through sex? No. So... having sex with someone after they've been bitten... much like eating a living human's flesh after they've been bitten (show reference... to a thing that happened years ago in the comic) has no effect on you.

So yeah... better left unanswered.

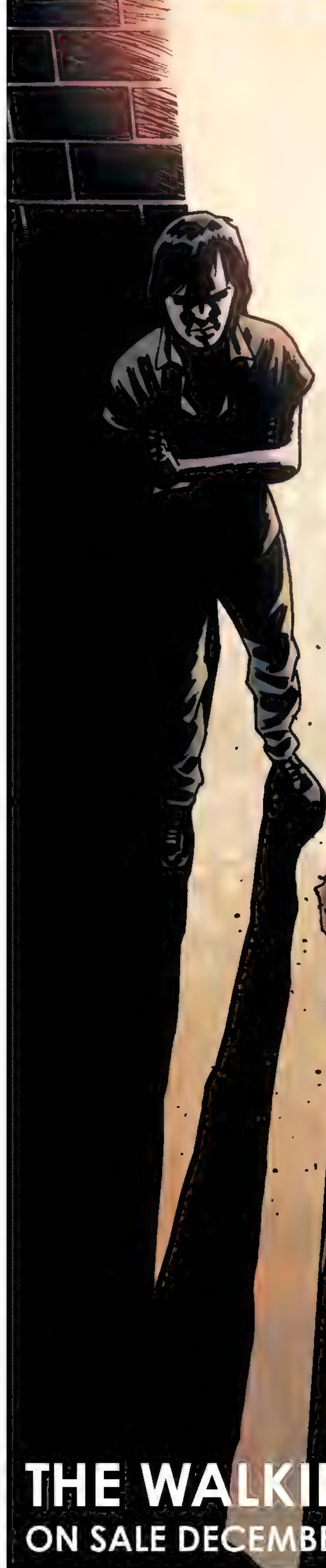
See you next month, when it's all about the children. And where I invent new reasons not to talk to Robert.

-Sean Mackiewicz

Do you NEED more reasons? Grumble. The honeymoon is over folks! See you next month.

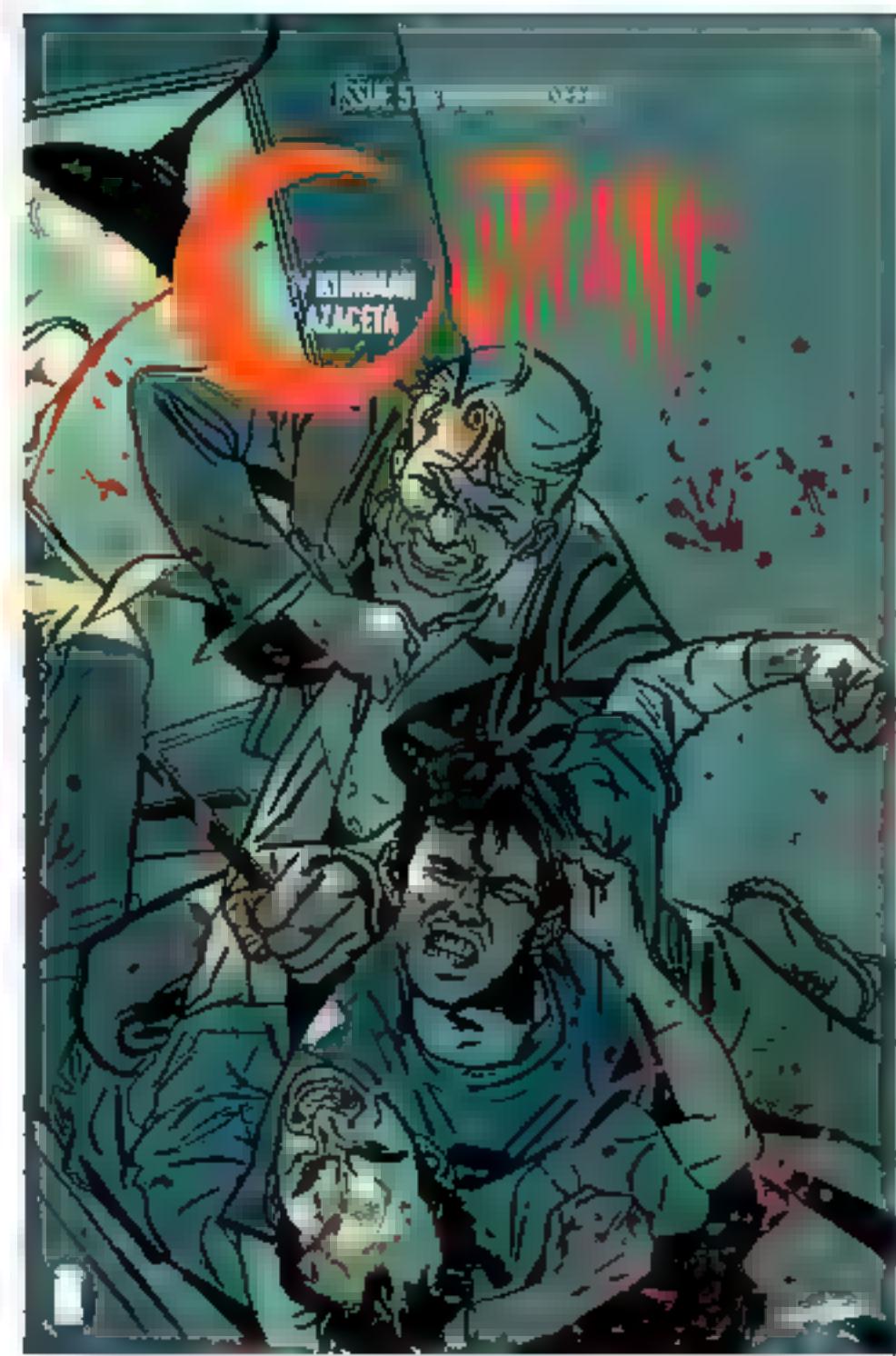
-Robert Kirkman

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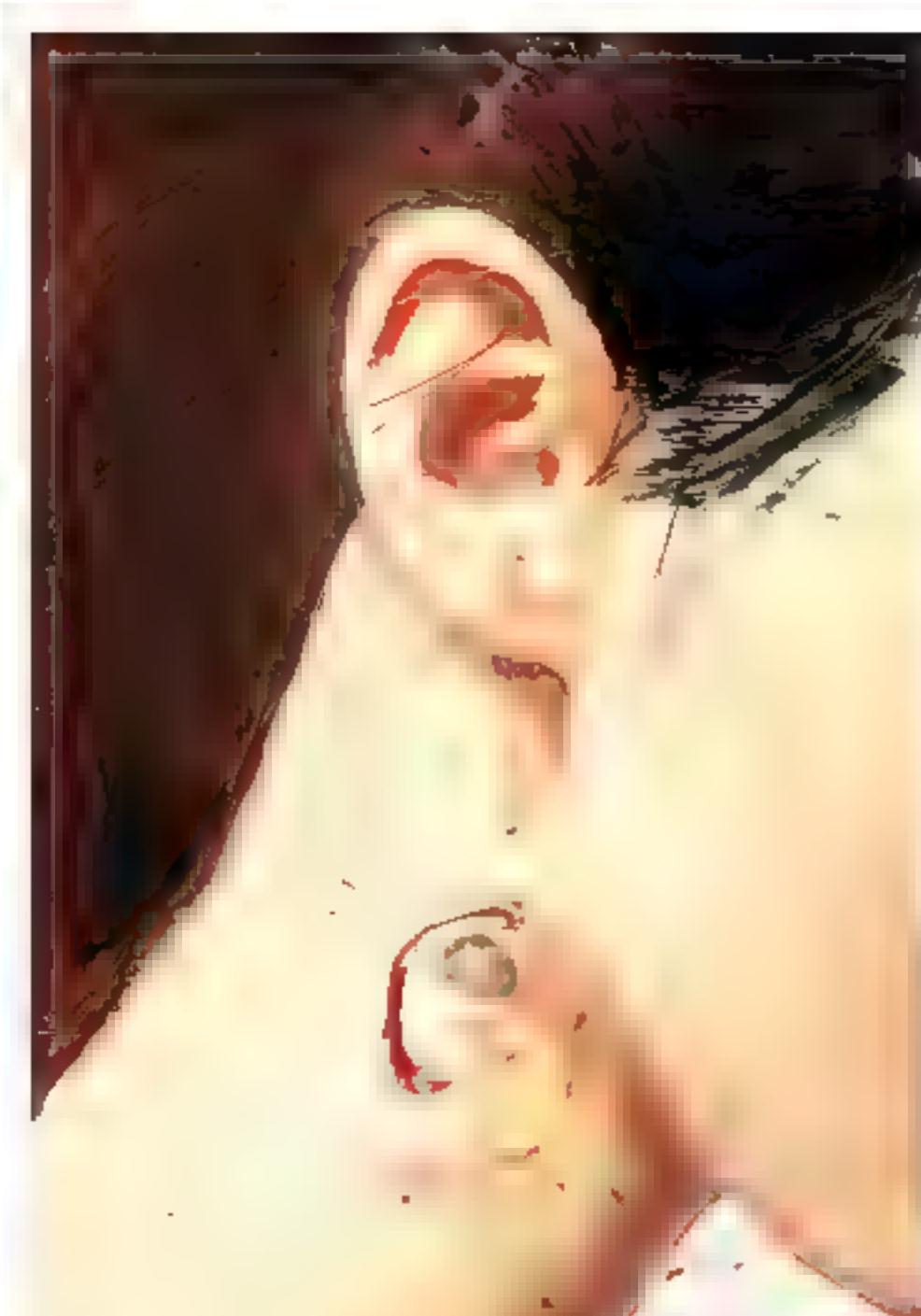
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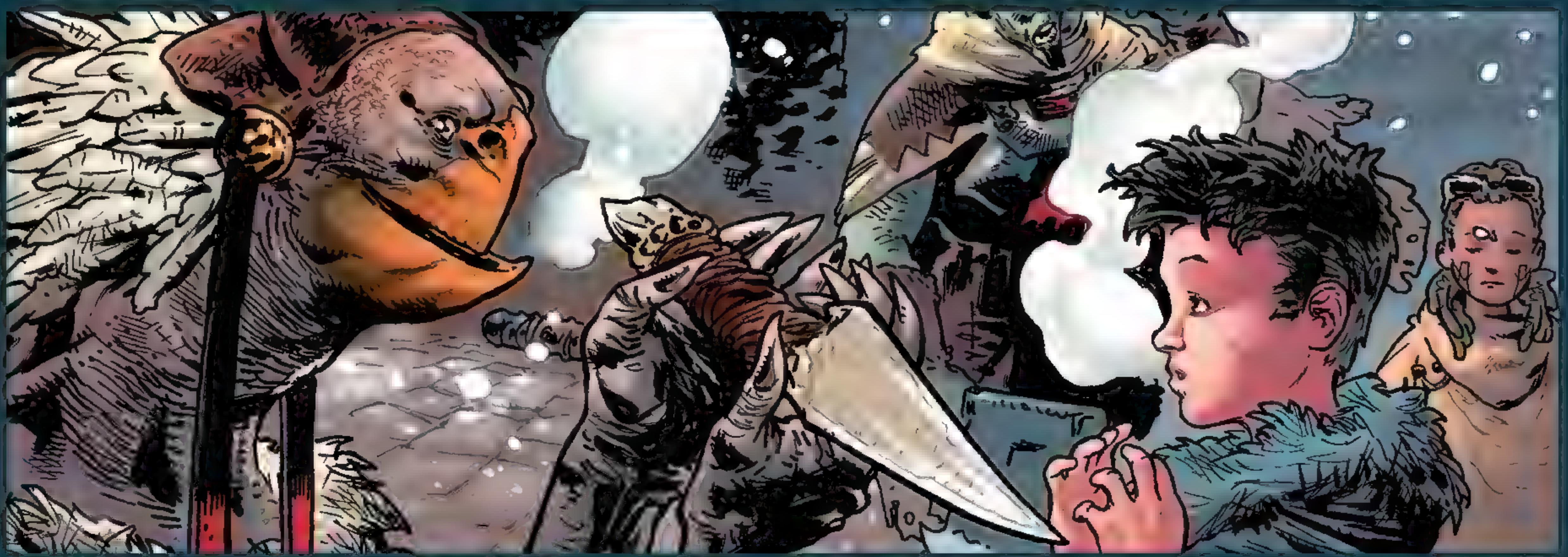


GHOSTED #15
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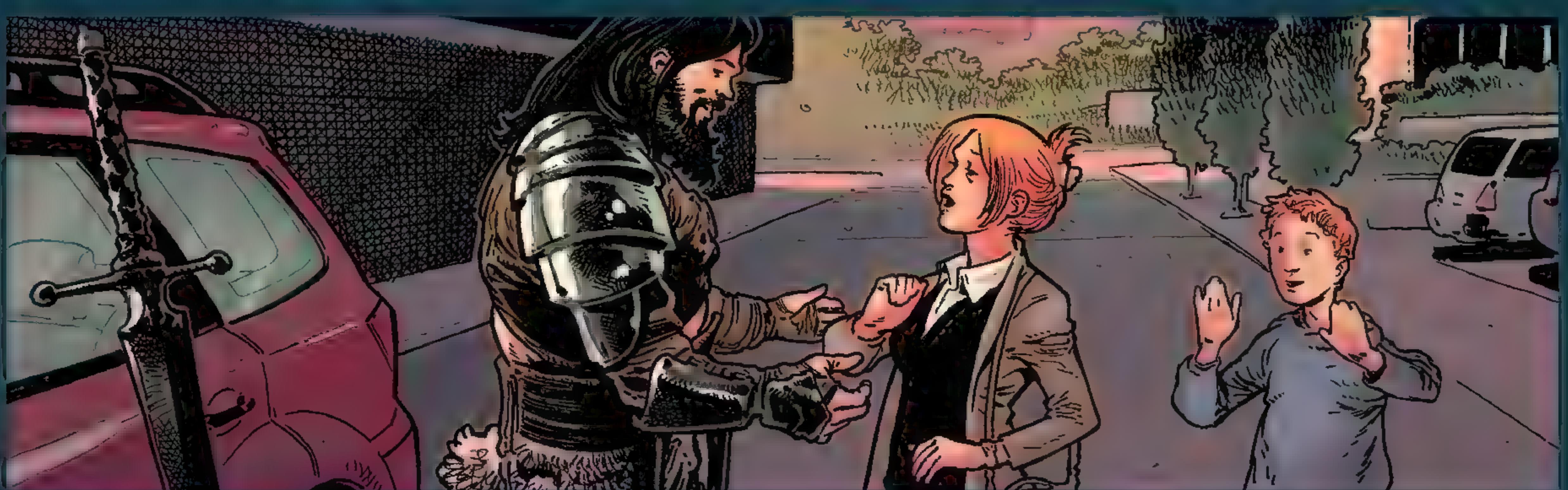
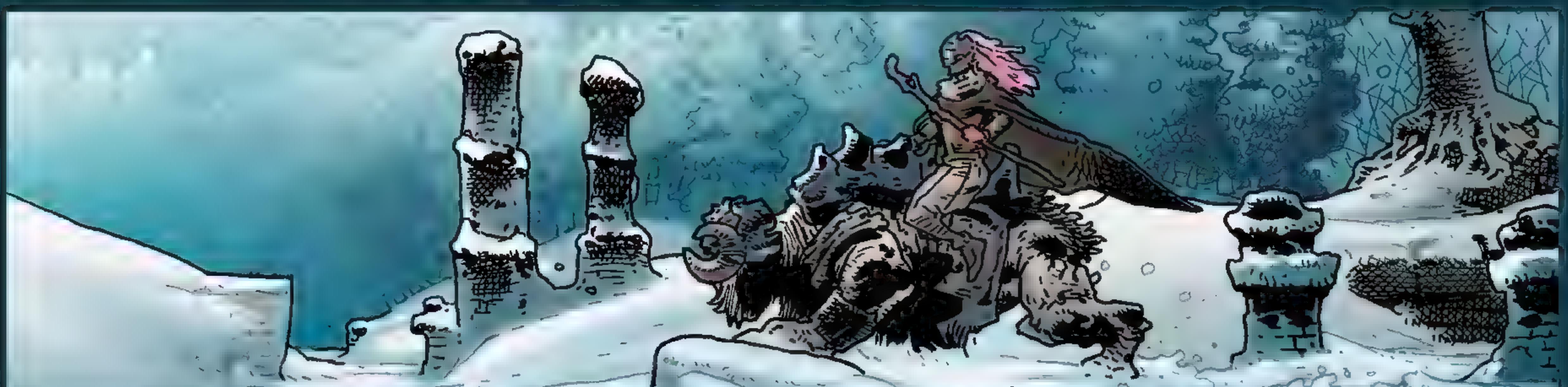
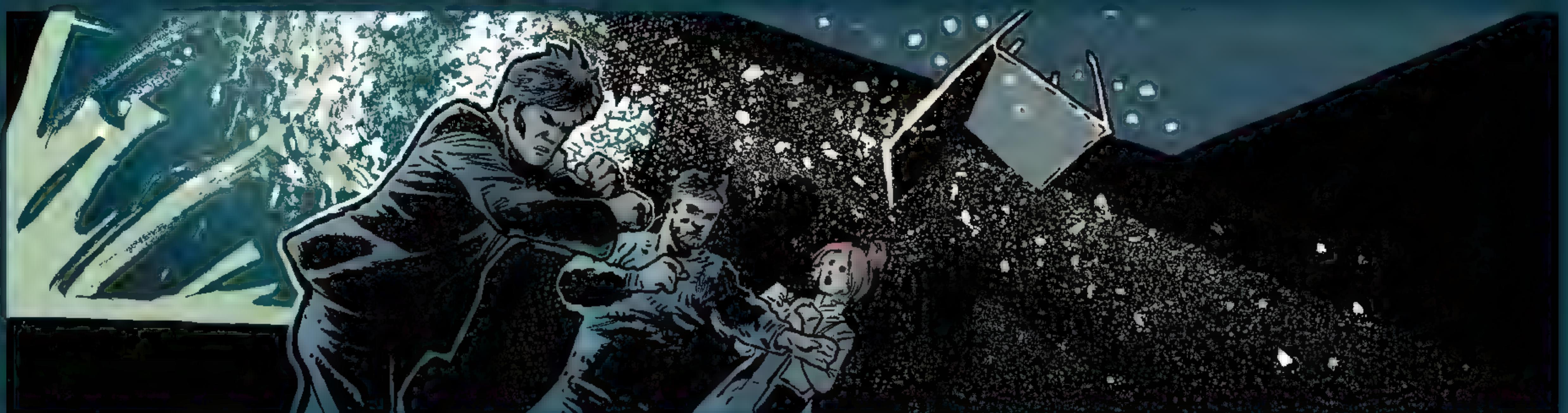


WYTCHES #2
ON SALE NOW





WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOUR STORY ENDS?



BIRTHRIGHT

WILLIAMSON BRESSAN LUCAS



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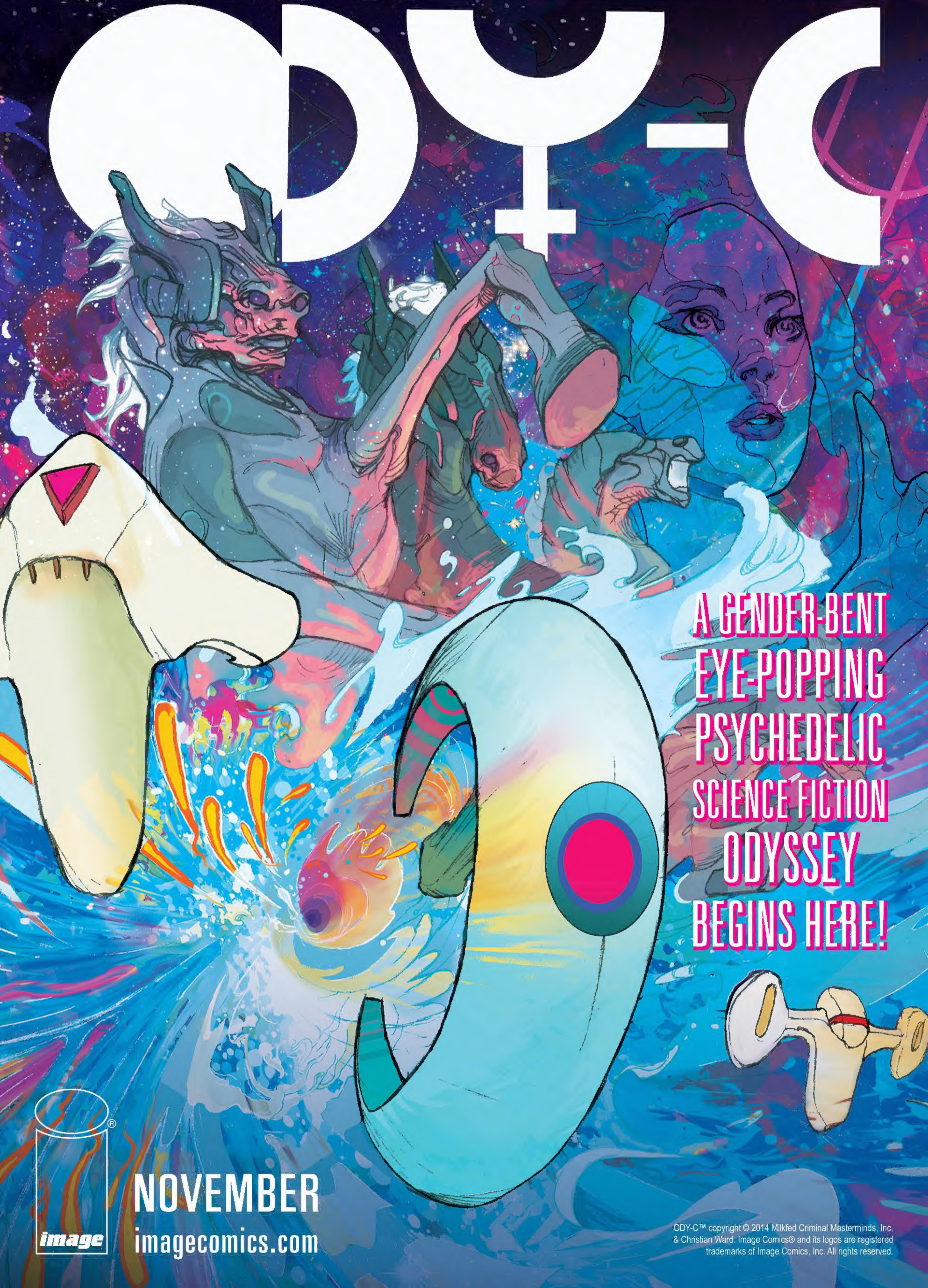


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THE HEAVIEST TRIP IS THE ONE BACK HOME.

MATT FRACTION

CHRISTIAN WARD

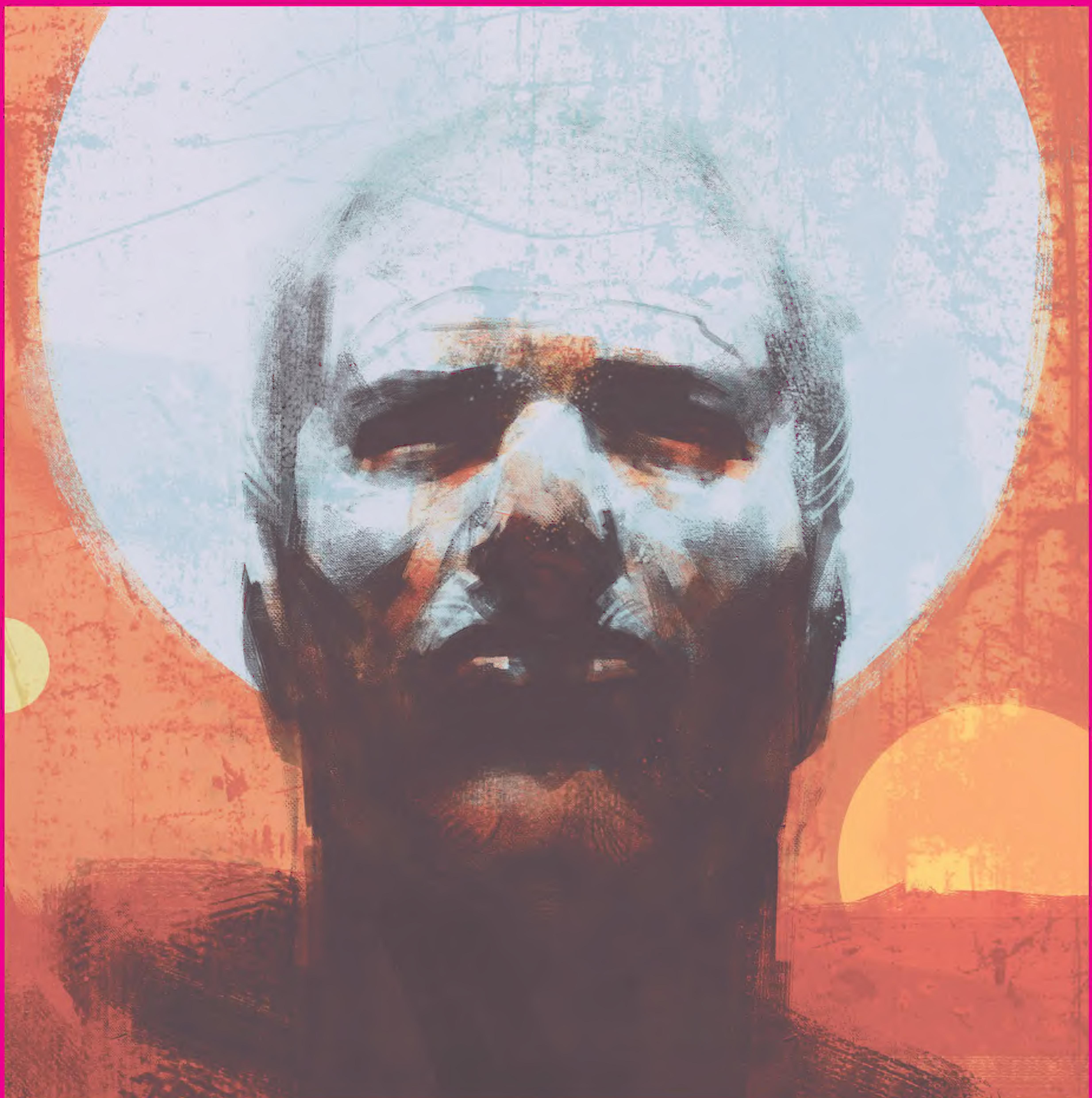


A GENDER-BENT
EYE-POPPING
PSYCHEDELIC
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BEGINS HERE!

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So, a warrior scarecrow god walks into a bar...

RUMBLE

JOHN ARCUDE
JAMES HARREN
DAVE STEWART



DECEMBER 2014

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RATED M / MATURE

